



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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June 16, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING POSITION CURTAILMENTS
AND VACANCIES FROM APRIL 22, 2008 BOARD MEETING (ITEM NO. 12, BUDGET
DELIBERATIONS AGENDA OF JUNE 16, 2008)**

During the April 22, 2008 Board meeting, your Board requested a report back during Budget Deliberations concerning the elimination of positions within the Department of Regional Planning in the 2008-09 Proposed Budget. The report was to include an explanation of why specific positions were chosen for elimination, the number of vacancies, and what functions those positions represent.

As indicated on the attached report, a net of ten budgeted positions were eliminated in the 2008-09 Proposed Budget. However, three code enforcement positions (Regional Planning Assistant II's) which represent full restoration of the Code Enforcement Program, are included in Final Changes, pending your Board's approval during Budget Deliberations.

If you have questions, please contact George Parker of my staff at 213-974-4363.

WTF:LS
RG:GP:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Bruce W. McClendon, Director of Planning



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

May 22, 2008

To: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

From: Bruce W. McClendon, FAICP
Director of Planning

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BOARD QUESTIONS REGARDING FY 2008-09
DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

At its April 22, 2008 meeting, the Board of Supervisors raised questions about the number of vacancies and other budget issues in the Department of Regional Planning, especially in light of budget cuts that will eliminate some of our vacant positions in Fiscal Year 2008-09. Attached to this memo, please find a chart showing vacancies by Division. The June 1, 2008 totals include new employees who will be on board by May 30. You will note that the eleven planning vacancies we are showing as of June 1 will be reduced to two planning vacancies on July 1 based on the 2008-09 proposed budget. One of these vacancies will be in the Current Planning Division and the other will be in the Advance Planning Division.

The Fiscal Year 2008-09 reductions were due to a \$603K decline in revenue and the \$403K reduction imposed by the CEO. All reduced positions were vacant. The staffing reductions were made in the following sections and will not impact resources allotted for special projects or environmental reviews:

Current Planning Division

Impact Analysis Section

- 1.0 Principal Regional Planning Assistant eliminated
- A reduction in caseload for Initial Studies has resulted in decreased revenues to support this operation
- Impacts the review of Initial Studies (numbers declining)
- Will not impact biologist positions or the review of EIRs

Zoning Permits I and II Sections

- 2.0 Regional Planning Assistant II (1 from each section)
- A reduction in caseload for Conditional Use Permits and other permits has resulted in decreased revenues to support this operation

- These positions would normally review Conditional Use Permits, Oak Tree Permits and Revised Exhibit A's

Hearing Examiner

- 1.0 Regional Planner II eliminated due to the reduction of 2.6% in net County costs
- Because this is a pilot program that will need to be phased, the Department believes that the reduction of 1 position would not have a serious impact on its implementation during the next fiscal year

Land Use Regulation Division

Land Development Coordinating Center

- 2.0 Senior Regional Planning Assistants
- 1.0 position reduced due to revenue decline attributed to reduction in Plot Plan caseload
- 1.0 position reduced due to the reduction of 2.6% in net County costs and the decrease of One-Stop meetings

Zoning Enforcement I, II, III (1 each; 3 total)

- 3.0 Regional Planning Assistant II (1 from each section)
- The positions were reduced due to the reduction of 2.6% in net County costs
- The Zoning Enforcement Sections collectively account for 20% of the Department's workforce
- This division was approved for an increase of 11 positions in this year's budget and several of the positions were unfilled and the positions could be eliminated without laying off any employees. The reduction of three positions has a smaller impact on the mission of the Zoning Enforcement section than it would have to other sections in the Department
- The Department plans on technology improvements in this area to improve efficiency in the section

Advance Planning Division

Countywide Studies

- 1.0 Principal Regional Planning Assistant eliminated
- Reduced revenue received from DPW for Congestion Management, Air Quality, and County Transportation programs impacts the Department's ability to support them
- No planning programs will be impacted

Community Studies I

- 1.0 Regional Planning Assistant II
- Reduced revenue received from DPW for Congestion Management, Air Quality, and County Transportation programs impacts the Department's ability to support them
- No planning programs will be impacted

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
May 22, 2008
Page Three

We hope this addresses the questions you raised at last month's hearing. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

BWM:ems

Attachment

c: Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

VACANCIES BY DIVISION

5/8/08

AS OF 5/1/08

	CURRENT PLANNING	LAND USE REGULATION	ADVANCE PLANNING	INFORMATION & FISCAL	TOTAL
Sr. Biologist	1				1
Administrative Vacancies					
Clerical	1	3		2	2
Planning Vacancies	5	5	3	1	5
Deputy Director	1		1	1	14
TOTAL	8	8	4	4	24

AS OF 6/1/08

(Includes anticipated hires/promotions)

	CURRENT PLANNING	LAND USE REGULATION	ADVANCE PLANNING	INFORMATION & FISCAL	TOTAL
Administrative Vacancies					
Clerical Vacancies	1	1		2	2
Planning Vacancies	4	3	3	1	3
Deputy Director	1		1	1	11
TOTAL	6	4	4	4	18

AS OF 7/1/08

(Includes anticipated budget cuts)

	CURRENT PLANNING	LAND USE REGULATION	ADVANCE PLANNING	INFORMATION & FISCAL	TOTAL
Administrative Vacancies					
Clerical Vacancies	1	1		2	2
Planning Vacancies	1		1	1	3
Deputy Director	1		1		2
TOTAL	3	1	2	3	9

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

FY 2008-09

REDUCTIONS IN POSITIONS DUE TO CURTAILMENT AND REVENUE REDUCTIONS

REVENUE - for FY 2008-09, the department anticipates revenue declines in initial studies, conditional use permits, revised Exhibit A, plot plans, and planning studies for DPW (Advance Planning).

Section	No. of positions	Item #	Classification Name	Salaries + EB
Impact Analysis	1.0	4435A	Principal Regional Planning Asst	\$ 111,000
Zoning Permits I	1.0	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II	\$ 94,000
Zoning Permits II	1.0	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II	\$ 94,000
Countywide Studies	1.0	4435A	Principal Regional Planning Asst	\$ 111,000
Community Studies I	1.0	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II	\$ 94,000
Land Development				
Coordinating Center	1.0	4431A	Senior Regional Planning Asst	\$ 99,000
Total:	6.0			\$ 603,000

CURTAILMENT - represents reduction of 2.6% or \$403,000 to address the County's projected funding deficit.

Section	No. of positions	Item #	Classification Name	Salaries + EB
Zoning Enforcement I	1.0	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II	\$ 94,000
Zoning Enforcement II	1.0	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II	\$ 94,000
Land Development				
Coordinating Center	1.0	4431A	Senior Regional Planning Asst	\$ 99,000
Hearing Examiner	1.0	4440A	Regional Planner II	\$ 116,000
Total:	4.0			\$ 403,000

ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM CHANGE

Section	No. of positions	Item #	Classification Name	Salaries + EB
Zoning Enforcement III	(1.0)	4430A	Regional Planning Assistant II*	\$ (94,000)
Administrative Services	1.0	0934A	Head, Staff Services	\$ 99,000
Total:	0.0			5,000.00

*Correction to fund position that was requested last year. Position off-set to add a Head, Staff Services for a new section, Administrative Services, which was added FY 2007-08 without a supervisory position.